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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 23 June 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the escalation of accusations by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia against the Army of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 72 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 June 1994 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the escalation of accusations by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia against the Army of Yugoslavia

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has noted with concern the escalation of accusations by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia against the Army of Yugoslavia because of alleged violations of its border and provocations of border incidents. Along these lines are also the accusations concerning the alleged concentration of the units of the Army of Yugoslavia in the border area with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the alleged seizure of the "Straza on Cupino Brdo" post by the "Serbian Army".

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs assesses all these accusations as completely unfounded and unacceptable, and rejects them in their entirety.

As early as June 1992, the Army of Yugoslavia took positions and has ever since protected the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the outer line of the cadastral boroughs belonging to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Then, and for some time thereafter, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia never objected to this situation. In carrying out their duties, the units of the Army of Yugoslavia protected the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and have abided by the rules of service, confining their activity strictly to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The frequent accusations by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for alleged border violations coincide with the arrival of foreign military observers on the Macedonian side of the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs assesses that the purpose of the said frequent accusations by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is to back up their claim about the alleged "danger from the north", launched by some non-Balkan and non-European factors as a function of their broader interests. At the same time, such accusations are meant to justify the engagement and increasing presence of foreign military factors in the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as part of increased pressure on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia's policy towards all its neighbours, including former Yugoslav Republics, is well known and the attempts to present it erroneously, such as those coming from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, are contrary to the common interest in developing good-neighbourly cooperation, to peace and security in the Balkans. The policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is based on mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, and, in the case of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, also on an interest in normalizing relations and restoring the torn links and cooperation. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to be strictly committed to the principles of

the inviolability of territory and the non-use of force in the settlement of outstanding issues.

Assessing once again the Macedonian accusations as illogical, unfounded and unacceptable, the Yugoslav side expects the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to stop fabricating such accusations and to harmonize its behaviour with the internationally accepted norms and documents, in the interest of peace, security and good relations.